

# ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** August 7, 2014

**Agenda Item:** 2014 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

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## **Background**

For ducks, geese, swans, and coots Montana is in both the Central (CF) and Pacific (PF) Flyways and follows U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks based on winter population status for geese and May population and habitat for ducks. Adaptive duck seasons have three packages (restrictive, moderate, liberal). Liberal frameworks are available in 2014. Proposed seasons are listed below. A proposed PF split season allows an additional hunting weekend. Proposed CF zones and splits provide additional late opportunity. CF duck zone boundaries may not change until 2016. Two additional blue-winged teal are allowed/day for the first 16 days of the CF duck season. PF scaup would end Dec. 28 with a 3-bird limit.

## **Central Flyway**

Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 27-28 (2 days – limits below apply)

Duck, Coot, Goose, and Tundra Swan Seasons: Zone 2: Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, and Prairie Counties; Zone 1: The remainder of Montana's Central Flyway

- o Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks or mergansers, possession limit 3 times daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 5 mallards no more than 2 of which may be hens, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, and 1 canvasback. During the first 16 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Oct. 4 – 19), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal.
- o Coots: 15 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit
- o Geese: Dark- 5 daily; White – 20 daily; possession limit 3 times the daily limit for both dark and white.

Duck, Coot, and Tundra Swan (500 permits only) Seasons: Zone 1 – Oct. 4 – Jan. 8; Zone 2: Oct. 4 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 20 (Zone 2 closed Oct. 20– 31)

Goose Season: Zone 1 – Oct. 4 – Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (Zone 1 closed Jan. 12 – 16)

Zone 2 – Oct. 4 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 28 (Zone 2 closed Oct. 20 – 31)

Falconry: Ducks and coots: Zone 1: Sept. 24 – Jan. 8; Zone 2: Sept. 24 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 20.

Geese: Zone 1: Oct. 4 - Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17 – 21; Zone 2: Oct. 4 – 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 28.

## **Pacific Flyway**

Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 27-28 (2 days – limits below apply)

Ducks and coots: Oct. 4–Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (105 days); closed Jan. 12-16.

- o Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers, possession limit 3 times the daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, and 1 canvasback.
- o Coots: 25 daily and in possession

Goose season: Oct. 4-Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (105 days); closed Jan. 12-16.

- o Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit  
White - 20 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit

Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 11–Dec. 1

Falconry dates: Ducks, coots, and geese: Oct. 4 – Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21; closed Jan. 12-16.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The public comment period on any adopted proposal will run through 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 22, with final adoption at the Aug. 26 Commission meeting.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt proposed 2014 late season migratory bird regulations as presented by FWP.